

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners,

I am a citizen who needs to be informed about the political and electoral issues that affect my life. Therefore I am greatly disappointed by the lack of informative television programming.

Local public affairs programming is less than one half of 1% of all local programming. More than half of news broadcasts prior to the 2002 elections did not include a single campaign story. Our democracy is at risk when Americans don't know basic facts about the candidates or the issues, like in the 2000 elections.

Since broadcasters have clearly failed in their obligation to serve the public interest, the FCC should define meaningful public interest requirements that include local civic and electoral affairs programming. Broadcasters should air at least three hours per week of local civic and electoral affairs programming, with at least two hours devoted to meaningful election coverage in the six weeks prior to Election Day.

As the elections approach, a well-functioning democracy demands that citizens have access to a diversity of opinions and voices on the choices confronting us.

Sincerely,

Bill Hessling
Bill Hessling
1975 W 24th Ave
Eugene, OR 974051639